

A 4922-55
LEGACY,
OR
Widow's Mite;
LEFT BY
ALICE HAYES,
TO
Her Children and others.
WITH AN
ACCOUNT
OF SOME OF
Her Dying SAYINGS.

*Come and hear all ye that fear God, and
I will declare what he hath done for my
Soul. Psalm lxvi. 16.*

L O N D O N :

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A TESTIMONY from our Monthly Meeting at *Tottenham*, held the 25th Day of the 11th Month, 1720, concerning our deceased Friend, *Alice Hayes*; with an Account of some of Her *Dying Sayings*, which were brought into this Meeting.

OUR dear and well-beloved Friend, *Alice Hayes*, was born of *Honest Parents*, at *Rickmansworth* in *Hartfordshire*, in the Year 1657, who *Educated*, and brought her up in the *Profession of the Church of England*, as appears by her own Account.

It pleased the Lord to make known His TRUTH to her, about the Year 1680, by that Servant of the Lord, whose Name was *Elizabeth Stamper*, Sister to *Francis Stamper*: She was called forth into the

• *Work of the MINISTRY, and concerned to visit the Churches in several Parts of this Nation, and divers have been reached and convinced through Her Ministry: As also she Travelled through Holland, into Germany, as far as Fredricstadt, and had excellent Service: And many were reached and tendred by Her Ministry, it being in the Demonstration and Power of the SPIRIT.*

She removed out of Hartfordshire, and came to settle amongst us in Tottenham, about the Year 1712. And we had True Unity with Her, both with Respect to Her Innocent Exemplary Life and Conversation, and also Her Gift in the Ministry, in which she was made very serviceable to us here-away, for the Encouragement of Friends to Faithfulness, in every Branch of their Testimony. And did frequently attend our Meetings of Business, in which she often gave very solid and seasonable Advice.

*She being at the Yearly Meeting in London, in the Year 1720, was taken ill, but her Love being strong to her Friends there, she stay'd some Days, and then returned Home to her House at Tottenham, and grew weaker and weaker, till she quietly departed this Life like a Lamb. But during
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the Time of her Sickness, she gave much good Advice and Council to her Family, as also to others who came to visit her, and drop'd many Sweet SAYINGS of her Comfortable Enjoyment of the LORD's Presence, some of which are as follows.

James Dickinson, and Peter Fearon, came to visit her in their Return from London, and had a Comfortable Time with her, and she broke forth in Admiration of the Lord's Goodness that attended his Servants, and at that Time had enlarged their Hearts together: And she said, She trusted the Lord would be with them, and be with her to the End, and help safely through; desiring to be remembered by them in their near Approaches to the Lord, when separated: As also to give her Love to her Dear FRIENDS in the North, not expecting to see them again: But said, All would be well. She was resigned to the Lord's Time, and desir'd The Lord would conduct them safe to their Families, and give them plentifully to enjoy of His Peace, for their Labours in his Work and Service.

At another Time, a Friend of Tottenham coming to visit her, and some more

Friends coming in, she said, Oh ! Love one another, and the Lord make you a Living People unto himself, and preserve you in perfect Love and Unity. — I am, saith she, in perfect Love to all People, with many more weighty Expressions, and then desired Friends to give her up freely to her God : Saying, I am willing to dye, and I hope it will not be long first : But Oh ! I would go exactly in the Lord's Time : And all that I desire is, That the Lord's Presence may be continued to me, and then I fear not the pinching Time, The Hour of Death. My God is my Resurrection, and my Glory ; here is my Strength, my Refuge, and I am throughly resigned to his Will : And it will be but a little Time, and my Soul shall sing Praise to the Lord on Mount Sion, with the redeemed of him, out of the Reach of Trouble.

Our ancient Friend, George Whitehead, was several Times to visit her in the Time of her Weakness, and had Comfortable Seasons with her, wherein she expressed her great Satisfaction in his kind and tender Visits.

Some

Some Friends being come to visit her at another Time, she broke forth in a tender Frame of Spirit, and said, I do wait on my God, and He is a God of Everlasting Loving Kindness, and hath been good to my Soul all my Life long. — And then said, Friends, do not put off making your Peace with Him, till you come upon a Dying Bed. — Here is enough to do, to labour under the Afflictions of the Body: I would not be without the Favour of God now, for all the World. The Lord, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, my God, and your God, Bless you, and be a God to you in all your Trials, for He hath been so to me, A sufficient Helper in Times of Trouble.

Several Young People being with her at another Time, She tenderly advised them to be Good, and serve God faithfully, and not put off the Great Work of their Day to the Last, but timely to prepare for a Dying Hour; That (said she) you may have Oil in your Lamps, and be in Readiness whenever that Time shall come. And farther said, It hath been the Joy of my Heart to go to a Meeting, and to meet with the Lord there; but much more
 Joy

Joy it will be to my Soul, to meet with Him in Heaven, and to have a Place in His Kingdom: Through Mercy, I am under no Terror of Death, but am in True Peace: Oh! Blessed be my God for ever, His Goodness is exceeding large. — I would praise him for his Goodness, but that I am very weak; and desire, if it be his Will, not to see the Light of another Day, my Affliction being great; but all in His own Time; *And then broke forth in Prayer, saying, Dear God, make my Passage easy; and desired to be supported under her Affliction, which at Times was very sharp; yet she bore it all with great Patience, still looking to the Lord her Comforter, under the deepest Provings.* And often said, Oh! Sweet LORD JESUS receive my Spirit, for I long to be with my Saviour; yet let me not offend thee, but patiently wait thy Time.

She greatly desired at another Time, The Lord might Bless her Children, and that they might serve him faithfully in their Generation. She was often deeply engaged in Spirit before the Lord, for her Children, who were all, save one, at a great Distance
from

from her: She desir'd They might be Men of TRUTH, fearing G O D.

A few Days before her Death, some Friends of Tottenham being come to see her, sate down to wait on the Lord God with her: His Love was largely manifested, and sprung up as a fresh Spring; and after a Friend had been concern'd in Supplication to the Lord, she broke forth, and said, Oh! Love; this is Love that may be felt; my God, thy Goodness is wonderful large; my Soul praises Thee, for the Overflowings of thy Love at this Time; an Opportunity unexpected: With many more Sweet, Heavenly Expressions, and tenderly acknowledged the Kindness of her Friends in that Visit; and taking Leave in Brokenness of Spirit, she desir'd The Lord to be with them, and strengthen them; to be Valiant for His TRUTH, and to keep their Meetings in His Name and Power: Saying, Oh! What Comfortable Times we have had often in our Week-Day-Meetings; how have our Cups overflowed with the Love of our Heavenly Father; with more very affecting Expressions. — As to abide in the Unity of the Spirit of CHRIST, every Member
 keeping

keeping in its proper Place, and concerned for the Honour of TRUTH, in maintaining Good Order in the Church, &c.

At another Time, near her End, she desir'd, her dear Love might be remembered to all Friends, wishing well to them, and to their Posterity. And desir'd them about her, when they should see her a going to breathe out her last Moments, To be very still, and inward with the Lord in their Spirits, breathing for her easie Passage : Adding, All will be well ; I am going Home, I am going Home ; I have done with the World, and all that is in it ; but breathe the Lord may pour out of His SPIRIT upon a Young Generation, that they may serve Him in Cleanness of Heart. And farther said, She had Fought the Good Fight, and should obtain the Crown immortal : Adding, My Beloved is mine, and I am His : He is my All in All. — And then pray'd sweetly, Oh ! Everlasting God, and Mighty Jehovah, send the Angel of thy Power and Presence, to conduct my Soul into thy Heavenly Mansion, my Holy King, where there is Joy and Rejoycing, and
Singing

Singing of Praises for evermore. Into thy Arms, Sweet Lord JESUS CHRIST, I offer up my Soul and Spirit.

The last Words she was heard to say, her Voice being low, was, The Lord my God will help me. She was a Lover of Peace and Unity, and did promote it to the utmost of her Understanding; and in her Ministry very plain and powerful: But Oh! to the Disconsolate, it often drop'd like Rain, and run like Oil to the Wounded: And she had a WORD in Season, to most, or all Conditions. And often in our Week-Day-Meetings, Oh! how Advice hath drop'd from her like Dew. — Our Cups have been filled, and overflowed with Praise to the Great Fountain, and we encouraged in a Holy Perseverance in the Way of the Lord.

But she is now removed, and no doubt entered into that Joy and Bliss prepared for the RIGHTEOUS.

One Thing we may not omit, she greatly desir'd the Lord by His Good Presence, might attend the Meeting at her Interment, which was eminently answered, she being accompany'd by many Friends, and others, to Winchmore-Hill-Meeting, where divers Living Testimonies were born, and
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the Way of Salvation opened, and many Hearts tendred by the Lord's Power.

She departed this Life, the 8th Day of the 7th Month, 1720, Aged about Sixty Three Years, and was buried the 13th of the same, in Friend's Burying-Ground, at Winchmore-Hill.

Anne Holland,
Mary Brain, *Sen.*
Priscilla Freame,
Sarah Woodland,
Susanna Turner,
Elizabeth Brown,
Mary Baker,
Margaret Williams.
Elizabeth Davis,
Elizabeth Bell,
Sarah Warner,
Mary Burges,

John Freame,
Daniel Bell,
John Bennett,
Nicholas Davis,
John Warner,
G. Chalkley, *Jun.*
Andrew Warner,
Matthew Ansel.
George Mayor,
Thomas Long,
John Mulbery.

A LEGACY

A
 L E G A C Y
 L E F T B Y

A L I C E H A Y E S, &c.

IT hath been in my Heart for many Years, to leave behind me a brief Relation concerning the Way and Manner of the Lord's Dealings with me, from my Youth up to this Day, for the Encouragement of the Young in Years to Faithfulness; *and for ever to trust and confide in the Lord, who is never wanting to those that truly depend upon him, neither in Temporal nor Spiritual Mercies.*

I was born of honest Parents, at a Place called *Rickmansworth*, in *Hartfordshire*, in the Year 1657, who educated, and brought me up, in the Profession of the publick Worship of the Church of
England.

England. My Mother dy'd when I was very young, but whilst she lived, she was a tender affectionate one to me; she rather exceeded: One Instance of her Affection to me was very remarkable; I being one Time very weak, and supposed nigh unto Death, the Exercise thereof was so hard to her, *That she fell down upon her Knees, and prayed the Lord to take her, and spare me; which he did, For what End was best known to himself.*

I continued at Home with my Father, till about the Age of Sixteen Years, under the sharp Government of a Mother-in-Law, whose Austerity to me, made me weary of living with her, insomuch that I left my Father's House, and went to Service, that I might live more at Peace then I had done. The Lord in Mercy remembred me, and looked upon my Affliction in that Day, tho I was not yet come to the *Knowledge of the TRUTH*: And He followed me in those Days, with *His Reproofs in my Conscience, for the Sins of my Youth*; which were Dancing, Singing, telling idle Stories, and some other Pastimes, which Youth are so liable to run into. And
not

not being reprov'd by my Parents, nor by the Priest, I went on in the same, *Grieving the just Principle of GOD in my self; not yet knowing what it was that reprov'd me in Secret for these Things; tho' through the Lord's great Mercy and Goodness to me, those aforementioned were the worst Evils I was addicted to in all my Life; but for all that, When the Searcher of all Hearts, came by his Light to open my Understanding, and to set my Sins in order before me, and what it was that reprov'd me for my mis-pent Time; Then, Oh! then it was, That the Day of Jacob's Trouble was witnessed: Oh! How dreadful was it to me, to consider how I had overlooked the Reproofs of the Almighty; and ready I was often to bemoan my self after this Manner: Oh! that I had had but Parents that could have inform'd me that those Things I was reprov'd for, had been Evil; or that those Reproofs I often felt in Secret, was the Spirit of the Lord: Surely I have said to my self, I never would have done as I did: But greatly to be lamented it was not so, my Parents, nor yet the Priest, taught me no such Doctrine; both of them*

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counting

counting those Things but innocent and harmless Diversions. And as for the *Light, and Grace, or Spirit of God, that reprov'd me*, I had never heard there was any such Thing so near me, as I felt it, and found it. Then was I grieved to think the Lord of Glory should have so long knocked at the Door of my dark Heart, and waited for Entrance, and I so long to keep him out, who still followed me with his Judgements, and in great Mercy to my poor Soul, often brought me into deep Sorrow : The Consideration of my latter End he laid weightily before me, and the Thoughts of *Eternity* laid fast hold on me, and the Word *Ever* and *Ever*, stuck fast by me. Then, Oh the Trouble and Surprize that I was in, inso much that I could not tell what Course to take, neither who to discover my distressed Condition unto. Sometimes I have gone into Company, and strove that way to divert my Sorrow, but that would not do ; and then I would seek some secret Place, and there I would fall upon my Knees, and pour out my Spirit before the LORD, begging for Mercy and Forgiveness at His Hand.

Now

Now I am about to relate, how the Wise Hand of the ALMIGHTY guided me : After I left my Father's House, I went inquiring for a Place, and soon heard of one, where I continued some Time, and was well-beloved in the Family, and I served them honestly, and in Love. After some Time, I went away, to live at one called a Justice of Peace, where my first Husband and I came acquainted ; but it may not be amiss to relate how I spent my Time at my first Service, with Relation to Religion, which was after this Manner : I kept close and constant, as Opportunity permitted, in going to the publick Worship, and very often got alone into private Places to pray, and greatly delighted to read the Scriptures, and to get good Passages by Heart ; and when my Hand has been in my Labour, my Heart was meditating on good Matter, and very glad that I was from my Father's House, because of the Quietness I enjoy'd. And I was often comforted in my Heart in those Days, tho' I knew not from whence it came.

As I thus continued in well-doing, (according to the best of my Knowledge) the Lord was pleased to appear in an extraordinary Manner, and a sweet Visitation I had, for I was lead into a deep Silence before the Lord, there to wait, and durst not utter Words, notwithstanding I had gather'd much in the Brain of *Good Words, and Scripture Sentences*; but now I came to see that would not do. After this Manner that Time was spent, and a good Time it was to me; *It was the Lord's Doings, and he shall have the Praise of it; blessed be his Name for ever.*

And now to return to my going to live with the Justice; it remains first to take Notice, that I went for a short Time to a Brother's House, before I entered into my second Service, and while I was there, heard a Report about the Neighbourhood of a *Woman-Preacher*, that was esteemed of greatly among the *Quakers*, who was to be at one of their Meetings not far from my Brother's House: Some of the Neighbours in Curiosity, had a mind to go to hear and see, and asked me to go along with them, to
which

which I consented: When I came to the Meeting, it had great Impression upon my Mind, beholding the Solidity of the People, and the weighty Frame of Spirit they were under, occasioned many deep Thoughts to pass through my Heart, by beholding so much Difference between their *Way of Worship*, and those I went amongst. After some Time of Silence, a Woman stood up, and spoke, whose Testimony affected my Heart, and tendered my Spirit, so that I could not refrain from weeping: But Alas! alas! after Meeting was over, the Enemy soon prevailed again, and darkened that little Sense I had, by his Instruments without, and Suggestions within, so that I went no more to any such Meeting for several Years.

The Time being come to go to my Service to the Justices, my Mistress, before I had been long with her, would be often saying, *This Alice will be a Quaker*; tho' still I had no such Thoughts, but through the Lord's Goodness to me, I spent all my spare Time either in reading, or in getting alone, or in some Religious Performance, and continued

diligent and faithful to the Trust that my Master and Mistress reposed in me, to their Satisfaction, and my own too, being well pleased with my Place.

It was in this Family, (as I said before) that I came first acquainted with my first Husband, *Daniel Smith*, who in Love made Suit to me, and in True Love together continued in that Family near Two Years, and at, or near the End of that Space of Time, it pleased the LORD to visit me with a sore Lameness, occasioned by a Wrench in my Anckle, but for some Time longer I continued in my Service.

That Winter my Master and Mistress removeing to *London*, had not occasion for so many Servants in Town as they kept in the Country; some they put off, and my Mistress provided me a Place to be at till Summer, when they were to return into the Country again. Now at this Place I received a great deal of Hurt, as to my *inward Condition*; here I had no *Help forward towards Heaven*, but the contrary, by the ill Example of a vain and irreligious Conversation in that Family. I therefore caution young
People

People, To take especial Care what Company they joyn with, and to fly from bad Company as from a Serpent; for surely it was a sore Venom to me, because it help'd to drive Good Things out of my Mind, and Forgetfulness of God followed, which caused me to have many a sorrowful Hour, when the Lord brought me to a Sense of it; and blessed be his Name, he did not permit me to go on long in this State at quiet: For now my Lameness grew worse, and the Time came that I was to leave this Family, and return to my former Master, the Justice, where I longed to be, by reason that it was a more orderly Family.

And here I fain would have been well of my Lameness in my own Time, that I might be able to go through my Business; but I found the more I strove for a Cure, the worse I grew, insomuch that I was obliged to go Home to my Father's House, which was no small Exercise, through the Occasion of my Mother-in-Law: But blessed be the Lord, the Day of his Love was lengthned out still, tho' in Judgement, yet mixed with Mercy. Great was my Pain in Body, and the

Sorrow of Mind much greater, in this Affliction, like *Israel* of old, *I cryed to the Lord for Help* ; for now I saw if he did not help me, I was undone for ever. As for Man's Help I dispaired of, for I had tried many to no Purpose, so that great and many were my Cries and Prayers to God, to restore me from my Lameness again, resolving, *To serve Him in Newness of Life*. This was the Covenant I was ready to make with Him : *Oh ! the matchless Mercies, and Long-Forbearance of a Good and Gracious God, to a poor distressed, disconsolate, and unworthy Creature.*

But very remarkable was the Faithfulness and Constancy of my dear Friend, *Daniel Smith*, (afterwards my Husband) who in all my Distress and Weakness, never shrink'd in his Love to me, but continued constant, tho' I was brought to be a poor Object, and a Cripple that went with Crutches, and he a comely, handsome Man, and now was enter'd upon a Farme, and likely to do very well, and seemingly might have had far better Matches ; but he, like an Honest Man, never looked at that, but
continued

continued firm and constant, and waited Two Years to see how the Lord would deal with me; and at the End seeing no Amendment, proposed to me Marriage, and accordingly we were; and a faithful, tender, loving Husband I had of him, providing for me all Things that were needful and comfortable; a Mercy and Blessing I hope I shall never forget; and his Constancy and Faithfulness is worthy to be recorded to Posterity: And the Blessing of God was his Reward in this Life, and I have no Doubt but he is at Peace with his and my God.

Now being married, I left off tampering with my Leg, and in a few Months it grew better, and mended apace, and so well I was that I left my Crutch, and could go pretty well: *But Oh! to be lamented it was, that I missed the Way, for being recovered of my Lameness, and grown strong, lived at Heart's Content with a loving and tender Husband, and outward Things prospered like Israel of Old, I forgot the tender Dealings and Mercies of so Gracious a God, that had delivered me out of many Exercises and Afflictions, and gave my self what Liberty my unstable Mind desired,*

fired, forgetting again my Promises and Covenants I had made to the Lord.

And thus I went on for about one Year and a half after Marriage, when the Lord with an Eye of Pity, looked upon my wretched State, and miserable Condition, and laid his Hand upon me, in order to awaken me out of this State of false Ease, and by a great Fit of Sickness, brought me near to Death, where I beheld my Backslidings and Disobedience with Amazement. My Conscience being thoroughly awakened, Horror and Condemnation took fast hold upon me, and the Witness arose there, which caused sore and dismal Distress of Mind; and in this distressed Condition, *I seemed just going to step out of Time into Eternity.* In this State I saw if I died, *My Portion must be with the Unbelievers and Disobedient, in the Lake that burns with Fire and Brimstone for evermore.* And Just would it have been with God, if he had cut me off for my Covenant-Breaking, and Disobedience: Dreadful it was to me, to behold my Time so short, and the Work I had to do so great. *Oh! the Horror and Amazement I lay under, to think*

think how to endure the Torment I deserved, and the Time of its Continuance, which was to have no End. Oh! let the Thoughts of this State, sink deep into the Heart of every one that reads these Lines, that thereby they may come to be prepared, and truly fitted for the Kingdom of Rest and Peace, when pale Death looks them in the Face: Then will it be easier with them then it was with me; for no Mortal can tell the Disquiet I lay in for several Nights and Days, looking for that dreadful Sentence, Depart hence, for Time here is no more. Oh! the fervent Cryes and Prayers I put up to the Lord at this Time, that he would be pleased to spare me this one Time more; and begg'd all that came near me, to pray for me. My Cry was, Good God, spare me a little longer, and try me once more, and I will become a New Creature.

Thus I ventur'd once again to enter into Covenant with the Lord, who in Great Mercy and Pity, again looked upon me, and spared, and pardoned, and raised me from the Brink of the Grave. Oh! the boundless Mercies of God; how shall they be sufficiently set forth by me; Everlasting Glory be given unto Him; let
all

all that is within me, Praise His Name.
 And forasmuch as it pleased Him so to hear my Petition, as to raise me up again, and to give me a little Strength, a Remembrance of the deplorable State and Condition seized me daily, which called for Performance of my Vows and Promises of becoming a *New Creature*.

And now I began (according to the best of my Knowledge) after this Manner: Morning and Evening I failed not to pray, and to read the Scriptures, and other Books which I took to be good ones, constantly going to the Publick Worship if able; also resolving to have a Care both of my Words and Actions, and to act justly by all Men; (that Part I thank God, no one can ever charge me with the contrary:) And I thought I would walk very humbly before the Lord, in order to become a *New Creature*, for He let me see, That it was Holiness he called for at my Hands, and that it was my Duty to persevere therein, not for a Day, a Week, a Month, or a Year; but if I would be saved, I must hold out to the End: And that it may be so, is the daily Cry of my Heart, and
 hope

hope will be so to the End of my Days, that a Resting-Place I may find with the Lord God, and the Lamb for ever.

Now, notwithstanding I set my self about strictly to observe the aforesaid Performances, many Months had not gone over my Head, before I found a very strange Alteration and Opperation in me, the like I had never felt before ; the Foundation of the Earth began to be shaken in me, and strange and wonderful it was to me, admiring what should be the Cause thereof, hoping that now being found in the aforesaid Practice, I should witness Peace and Comfort : But behold the contrary, instead of Peace, Trouble and Sorrow, Wars and Com-motions, with frightful Sights, and deeply distressed, fearing that my Condition was such, that never was the like, not knowing that the Messenger of the Co-venant was come, and coming to his Temple : He whom my Soul had been seeking after, and that he must sit there *as a Refiner's Fire, and as a Fuller with Soap, to cleare his own Place*, which was my Heart ; which was defiled by the Usurper, who had took up his Habitation

tion there too long. Oh! it was a long Time indeed, that the Lord of Life and Glory was kept out of His Habitation, though He long waited and knocked for an Entrance near Twenty Years, in which Time there was *much Fuel for the Fire, and much Work for the Refiner, whose Skilful, as well as Merciful Hand, preserved me in the Furnace*: For I thought the Bad Part in me was so great, and the Good so small, that all would perish together: For the Heat of that Fire in my Heart was so great and terrible, that my Roarings were not little; for like David, I was ready to say, *My Bones were all out of Joynt; and in the Depth of Distress, the Enemy was very strong with his Temptations*. But Oh! the Kindness of God to me in that Day, let it never be forgot by me, or any of mine, while we have Breath to draw in this Life: *Then did Succour come in Time of Need*; but the old Adversary was strong, and not willing to lose his Habitation, and have his Goods spoiled, made Resistance; But CHRIST the Stronger, overcame him in due Time, and cast him out, and blessed be God, in a good Measure, spoiled his

his Goods. But Oh ! the Struglings that I felt in those Times, I hope never will be forgot ; and my Desire is, that these *Lines of Experience* may, and do believe they will be of Service to some poor, distressed Traveller, that may have these Steps to trace through.

Truly I have thought, that if I had met with the like Account of any that had gone through such Exercise, it would have been some Help to me. I searched the Scriptures from one End to the other, and read several Books, but I thought none reached my State to the full ; the *Third of Lamentations*, and in the *Psalms*, and the *Seventh of the Romans* ; these Scriptures did somewhat affect me at Times, whereby a little Hope would arise, thinking that these had passed through something of it : But Oh ! the Distress of that Day, indeed it was the *Day of Jacob's Trouble* : And Oh ! the bitter Whisperings of Satan, and the Thoughts that passed through my Mind, such as my very Soul hated ; yet such was the Suggestions of the Enemy, that he would charge them upon me, as if they were my own. But the Lord in his
own

own due Time, gave me to see, *That the Enemy was a Lyar from the Beginning.*

And indeed had not a secret Hand of Power supported me in this my bewildred State, I had surely fainted, and laid down in the *Depth of Dispair*, if the Lord had not helped me : Days and Nights were alike to me ; there was no flying from the *Presence of the Lord, and His Righteous Judgements, which persued me, and was now poured upon the Man of Sin, and transgressing Nature in me, which had long continued, and took deep Rooting.* Now was the *Refiner's Fire* felt to burn very hot, in order to burn up the *Dross and Tin.* Oh ! Happy Man, and Happy Woman, that doth thus abide the *Day of His coming* ; for sure I am, *His Fan is in His Hand*, and if Men will but submit when He appears, He will thoroughly do that for them that no other can do, *Purge the Floor, which is Man's Heart, where the Chaff is to be burnt.*

This is the Baptism that doth People good ; the Lord bring Thousands more in, and through this *Inward Experience indeed*, to make an Offering to God in Righteousness, for nothing short of it will

will do, or stand in Stead, in the Great and Notable Day of the Lord.

After this Manner, did the Almighty in great Loving Kindness deal with me, *His Judgements being mixed with Mercy to the unworthiest of Thousands.* And as I continued in Patience, and resolving to press forward towards the Mark, tho' various was the inward States I passed through, yet by the Assistance of the *Light of CHRIST*, for without it I had surely fell in the vast howling Wilderness, where so many Dangers did attend. Here I came to read in the Mistry, in the Gospel Dispensation, what *Israel* of old passed through, while in *Egypt's* Land, and by the Red Sea; and their Travels through the Deeps, with their coming up on the Banks of Deliverance; and likewise, *their Travels through the great and terrible Wilderness, where the Fiery Serpents and Scorpions, and Drowth were, wherein there was no Water, as in Deut.* 8. 15.

And marvellous it is to think, that ever I should be preserved through these Diversities of States, and that altogether without the Assistance of any outward

Instrument, as blessed be God many now have ; for I was still under the Hiring Teachers, where I very frequently resorted, and fain would I have settled there : And constant I was in resorting to the Steeple-House, but sorrowful I went in, and so I came out, Week after Week, and Month after Month, seeking the *Living LORD* among the dead Forms and Shadows, who is not to be found there.

And well might it be so with me, for want of my Beloved, the *Lord JESUS CHRIST*, whom my very Heart and Soul desired more than any outward Enjoyments : And grieved I was at my very Heart in that Day, to behold the Barrenness of both Priest and People, I looked for some Fruits of Sobriety, especially in the Time of Worship, but to my great Sorrow, I should see some light and airy, with Actions of Pride ; others rude and wanton, and some a sleeping ; and so little Solidity, that I was often ready to say to my self, *Is there no People that serves the Lord better than these ?* For I observed with Sorrow, that they would be a talking of their Farms and Trades, till

till they came to the very Door of the Steeple-House, and at it again as soon as they came out ; which Thing I thought not well of : But still I continued under my Exercise, grievously weighed down and bowed in my Spirit, wishing in the Morning, would to God it was Evening ; and in the Evening for Morning ; so great was the Horrour I lay under, that I often wished I had never been born.

But now it was not long, till I came to witness some Tenderneſs ſpring in my Heart, that had been ſo long hard ; now I could weep in the Senſe of my loſt and undone State, for as yet I knew not where to look, or wait, for the Appearance of CHRIST, altho' I had felt all this inward Workings and Strivings in me. And when I felt a little Eaſe or Comfort, I felt it within ; for indeed there was my Grief and Wound, not knowing that GOD was ſo near me, nor who it was that convey'd it to my Soul : For I thought that God was only in the Heavens above the Skies ; for as yet the Scriptures was as a ſealed Book to me, and I knew not that He was ſo near me, as by *His Light*, to let me ſee the

Outgoings of my Mind, and the very Thoughts and Intents of my Heart. But however at Times I felt a little Warmth in my Heart, and a breathing to God on this wise; *Oh! Lord, make me One of thy Fold, a Sheep of thy Pasture.* These Cries, and but little else, passed through my Heart, for many Months to God; *For that was the First Good Desire that He begot in me, after he led me through Judgement for Sin; then the LIGHT, or Good Spirit of CHRIST, which is all One, let me see plainly that I was not in Society with his Flock:* Therefore the Cry remained still, *Lord, make me One of thy Fold, a Sheep of thy Pasture;* for as yet I did not see who they were, nor where they were folded.

But as I continued thus exercised, the LORD was pleased to discover to me *His People*, after many mournful Nights and Days; but indeed it was a great Cross to me, and great Sufferings I went through, before I could submit to be counted *A Fool amongst the People of God, with whom now I have True Unity, and bless God for the Privilege.*

But

But if any should question, and say, How camest thou to have these People discovered to thee by the Lord, as thou sayest? Truly Friend, I give thee this Answer, and in much Simplicity and Integrity of my Heart: As I continued under the aforesaid Exercise, it frequently ran through my Mind and Heart, Go to the Quakers; and so intelligible it was to my Understanding, as if I had heard an outward Voice; but I was not hasty to give up to that Motion, fearing, and doubting, least it should be the Enemy of my Soul, to deceive and beguile me, and lead me into Errors, and so continued still going to the Publick Worship, (I mean to the Church of England) so long, that at last no Peace nor Comfort could I find there, but still the Voice followed me, Go to the Quakers; but I still lingred for the aforesaid Reasons. Then came into my Mind, that Passage in the Tenth of the Acts of the Apostles, concerning Cornelius, How he had continued a long Time in Prayers and Alms; an Angel from God was sent to direct him, to send for Simon Peter, who was to inform him what to do. These Scriptures opened plain in my Mind, but notwith-

standing I had enough to reason within my self; for I reasoned thus in my Heart: As for *Cornelius*, he had an *Angel* directed him, (not then knowing what an *Angel* was, which is a *Ministring Spirit*;) but as for me, what do I see, I only hear as it were a *Voice* within me, saying, *Go to the Quakers*, and I may be deceived if I heed it: So I strove against the *Motions of the SPIRIT of TRUTH*, not knowing I was come under that Dispensation, *Wherein God speaks now to us by His Son, in the Hearts of His People.*

Yet such was the *Mercy and Love* of God to me, that in this *Time* of my *Ignorance and Infancy*, he was pleased to wink, and in great *Mercy* still followed me, as before-mentioned: So that I can truly say, that I witnessed the *Scripture* to be fulfilled, wherein it is said, *In the Day of thy Power, thy People shall be willing.* It was no less then the *Power of GOD*, that constrain'd me to go and hear what *Sort of Doctrine* was by them preach'd, for I had never but once heard any of those *People* preach, and that was about five or six *Years* before. And after a long struggling and reasoning, I went and inquired

inquired for a *Quaker's Meeting*, and was inform'd of the Place and Day, to which I went when the Day came, not acquainting any Body where I was going, neither had as yet opened my Condition to any one, nor could I; but when I came to the Meeting, there I saw a small Number of People waiting upon the Lord, and after some Time, a Servant of GOD stood up, *And declared such Things as I had never heard before from any,* whereby my State and Condition was fully spoke unto; so that I could set to my Seal, *That it was the TRUTH, and the POWER that attended the Testimony, reached to the Witness of GOD in my Heart; and a Zeal for Him was raised in me, by the Hopes that was begot in me, through the Preaching of the Word of TRUTH.* Oh! blessed be that Arm of Power, that hitherto wrought so eminently for my Deliverance.

When Meeting was over, I went away with Joy and Gladness of Heart, and my Understanding was in some Measure opened, and a Faith raised in me, that the Lord had a regard still unto me, forasmuch as my Condition

was so plainly opened by a Handmaid of the Lord that I had never spoke with, nor seen before : The Lord alone knew my Condition in that Time ; and as I continued faithful to what He made manifest unto me, it pleased the *Almighty One to make bare His powerful Arm for my Deliverance, through the many and various Exercises that I met withal for the GOSPEL SAKE, in which I had now believed.*

Soon after I received the TRUTH, I met with other sorts of Enemies, that the Old Adversary had raised ; *but for ever blessed be the God of my Life, that gave me Power and Dominion over my inward Enemies, delivered me also from my outward ones, for which He shall have the Honour for ever.*

Now my going to Meetings being known, both in my Family and Neighbourhood, some wicked Instruments did the Devil raise up, to set my Husband against me, whom I shall have occasion to speak of more hereafter in their proper Places. My dear Husband, that was so tender and loving to me all our Days till now, grew very unkind, and
His

His Love all turned into Hatred and Contempt of me ; which Trial was very hard for me to bear, from one I so dearly loved, but so it seemed Good to the Lord to suffer it, For to try me whether I loved any Thing better then himself. Sometimes when I have been going to dress my self to go to Meeting, my Husband would take away my Clothes from me, but that I valued not, and would go with such as I had, so that he soon left off that ; and many other Trials I met from him, which I think not proper here to mention. But one very close Trial he put me to, and that was this : He being pretty cool in his Temper, very seriously spoke to me after this Manner : Now I am come to a Resolution in my own Mind what to do ; if you do not leave of going to the Quakers, I will sell off all that I have, and pay every one their own, and go and leave you. This came close to my very Life ; and then also came the Saying of JESUS, into my Mind, He that loveth any Thing better then me, is not worthy of me. Then was I brought to the very Proof, Whether I loved CHRIT JESUS best or my Husband ; for now One of the Two must

must have the Preheminence in my Heart, or the chief Room there: Now was the Time come indeed, for the full Proof of my Love to GOD, Whether I could leave Father and Mother, Brothers and Sisters, yea, and a Husband that I had loved best of all, for CHRIST and the GOSPEL'S SAKE. This was a Trial none can tell, but those that come to witness the same, for those Relations are very near; and without an invisible Support, that reaches through these Things to the Soul, it cannot be upheld under such Trials: But where the Heart is True to GOD, being sanctified and made clean by the washing of Regeneration, such are enabled to deny themselves not of the Unlawful Things only, but of the dearest Lawful Things also, for CHRIST'S Sake and the GOSPEL.

My Husband waiting what Answer I would make to what he proposed to me as aforesaid, (after some Time of weighing the Thing in my Spirit,) I answered with a True Concern upon my Heart, after this Manner; *Well Husband, if it must be so, I cannot help it; giving him to understand, That I could not let go that*
Interest

Interest I had in G O D, through Faith in His S O N, that was come to save me from my Sins, by complying with him, to refrain going to worship God amongst His People, that God had so visibly and so fully satisfied me he owned, and were I had felt and witnessed His Presence: *But everlasting Praises be given to His Name, when Hopes was raised in me, that through Faith in the S O N of G O D, my Sins should be pardoned for His Name Sake, Oh! then I could not let go this Interest in my S A V I O U R, for the Love of a Husband, tho' nothing in this World, was so dear to me as my Husband.* Many a sore Exercise the Lord suffered him to inflict me with, which was as bitter as Wormwood and Gall to me, for the Time they lasted, which I receiv'd as from the L O R D'S Hand in Kindness, *To try how constant I would be in my Dependance upon Him alone, when all in this World that was near and dear to me, was turned against me: Yea, Father and Mother, Brothers and Sisters; but nothing came so near me as my Husband.*

When now I came to the Cross, and truly to take it up for C H R I S T'S Sake,
then

then Persecution of divers sorts I met with, but that of the Tongue was the hardest for me to bear, and a large Share I had of that, with cruel Mockings; but Thanks for ever be to that Power that upheld me through all the gross Abuses, false Reports, Undervaluings, and Slittings I lay under; the very Remembrance thereof bowes my Heart, and humbles my Spirit, in the Sense of the Kindness of God to me in that Day, that enabled me with Patience to go through all the Clamour of their Tongues, till it pleased the Lord to remove out of the Way, many of my Persecutors and Slanders; (some of them I may have occasion to mention in its Place) whose Refuge of Lyes the Lord hath swept away.

Now it being pretty much spread about that I was turned *Quaker*, the Priest of the Parish, whose Name was *John Berrow*, hearing of it, came to give me a Visit, and amongst the rest of his Discourse and Reasonings with me, he was so hardy, as to venture to tell me, *That the Quakers denied the Scriptures, and the Resurrection, and the Man CHRIST JESUS,*
that

that dyed without the Gates of Jerusalem; and that they only believed in a CHRIST that was in them. To which I answered, and said, No, they do not say so, or preach such Doctrine. To which he replied, It may be not yet, till they have got you. Goody Smith, said he, You do not discern the Hook, or the Pill that is gilded: It is a dangerous Doctrine they hold, and damnable Heresy they are in. To which I only replied, If they deny CHRIST, I never will be a Quaker; and so he went his way. And after much Labour and Travel, both of Body, Mind and Spirit, in searching the Scriptures, and comparing their Doctrine and Principles therewith, I found him to be a false Accuser, of both their Doctrine and Principles.

Some Years after, I found a weighty Concern upon my Spirit, to go to his Publick Place of Worship, and charge him with this Falsehood, to clear the Professors of the TRUTH, and my own Conscience, (more of which I shall hereafter have occasion to mention) and shall now proceed to say something concerning those Instruments afore hinted of, that were the Authors of much Disturbance

bance to my dear Husband, and Exercise to me.

The first was a Cook-maid, that lived with the Justice, whose Servant I formerly was my self, (as before mentioned in the Beginning of this Treatise) who now was my Landlord, my Husband holding a Farm of him; and another wicked Instrument was a Servant Maid of my own: These Two being both of a bad Spirit, matter'd not what Lyes they made and reported of me: *But the Lord discover'd their Wickedness, and my Innocency, in His own Time; worthy is He to be honoured and waited upon, saith my Soul, for ever.* And now came I to witness that Scripture fulfilled upon me, *Report, and we will report.* My Maid by her Lyes and Stories, and deceitful Carriage to the Justice's Family, thought to have preferred herself there, knowing it pleased the Justice's Wife to hear Stories concerning me, *Because of the Dislike she had to the Quakers:* But it was not six Months after she went from me, before she was found to be a Theif, and ran out of the Parish, and I never saw her more. As for the Cook-maid, she in a very short

short Time, came to much Poverty and Want, and often after I relieved her.

Two others were very fower to me, the one was the Justice's Wife, the other my Husbonds Mother, (made so by the two first mentioned Lasses;) *whose Stories and Lyes had so filled them with bitter Unkindness towards me, that they very much hurt my Husband, by setting him against me: The Justice's Wife especially, caused me to go through much Exercise, but however it lasted not long, for in a few Months after I was convinced, she went for London, where she stayed some Time: Now the Time of her intended Return being come, the Coach was provided to fetch her home; Death struck her, and she died, and was brought Home dead.*

My Husband's Mother being very full of Wrath and Bitterness towards me, I thought to have pacified her by Intreaty, and by acquainting her a little with some Part of my Exercise, *And that I did not go to the Quakers in a stubborn Mind, or Self-will, nor with any ill Design of undoing my Husband, as some reported.* But when I began to speak to her, she flew into a bitter Passion, grievously reflecting upon me,

me, saying, *I would undo her Child*, meaning my Husband; but I could by no Means gain her into any Moderation; nor would she hear what I had to say, but departed from me, expressing herself in much Anger, after this manner: *I will never endure you any more, and went Home; were she soon fell sick and died, and was buried in less than a Weeks Time.*

But the Enemy soon stirred up another, which was her Husband, my Husband's Father-in-Law, and he came one Time full of Prejudice against me, to our House, and brought a great Book with him, and sat down: My Husband soon came in, where they both set upon me, *Reflecting upon the Quakers*; whereupon I attempted to go out of Door, but my Husband prevented me, for he placed himself by the Door, on purpose to hinder my going out.

In those Days I could not talk, or contend much for the TRUTH, *but blessed be God I was made willing to suffer for it many Ways; but That which was hardest for me to bear, was from my Husband, whom I loved as my own Life; we had not then been married above Two Years, so that if God*
had

had not upheld me, I had fainted: The Loving Kindness of God, I would have it be had in everlasting Remembrance by all Mortals, but more especially by me, and all that ever belongs to my Line.

Now, (as I was saying) my Husband not permitting me to go out as I intended, the Great Book was laid upon the Table, and they said, *If I lacked a Book to read, there was one for me to look in,* and urged me to read it; whereupon I took it, and read a While to my self, but I soon shut it up, and would read no more: *I saw it to be a Piece of an Adversary to TRUTH, and stuffed with Lyes and Enmity;* and then took up the BIBLE in my Hand, and the first Place I cast my Eye upon, was that Passage in the Psalms, where it is said, *It is better to trust in the Lord, then to put Confidence in Man; yea, it is better to trust in the Lord, then to put Confidence in Princes. Oh! the Comfort that I felt in reading thereof, I am sure it was more to me than any outward Treasure, for I found my Strength renewed, and Patience given me to bear all, and suffer quietly.*

My Father-in-Law used many bitter Expressions, saying, *That if he were my*
D Husband,

Husband, he would never see me want ; insinuating thereby that he would leave me, my Husband being then present, and having himself before threatned me with the same Thing. Then my Husband's Father-in-Law began to Curse and Swear, for which I could not forbear reproving of him, and that in the *Plain Language*, and that enrag'd him, that he was like a mad Man, Cursing, and saying, *Do not Thee and Thou me ;* and in a despising Manner said, *A Quaker ! away with it : If you had been any Thing else ; Had you been a Baptist, and gone to hear them every Day in the Week, it had not been so bad as this. A Quaker ! away with it.* And again, saying, *If you will not turn, I will buy a Chain, and chain you to that Maple-Tree that stands in the Green : Adding, And there you shall be glad to turn for Hunger.* Abundance more might be mentioned, which I omit for Brevity sake ; but my poor Husband said not much at that Time, only kept me within Doors, to see and hear what his Father-in-Law could do with me : But blessed be the Lord it did not move me, and let all be encouraged to trust in that ancient Arm of Power, that never failed

in

in Time of Need, nor ever will, those that have a single Eye to His Glory; blessed be His Name for ever.

Now it was not long e're the Lord brought them both to a Sense of their Error, for the next Time they met, my Father-in-Law told my Husband, *That he was very sorry for what he had said and done to me, and that he would never do so more; neither indeed did he, but ever after was very loving and moderate to me; and such an Impression it had upon him, as to make him very moderate and respectful to all Friends he conversed with. And after some small Exercise, which is not worth mentioning, my dear Husband's Love returned again, and continued to his Lifes End a loving and tender Husband, and an indulgent Father to our Children: And through the Lord's Goodness to him, he was convinced that it was the TRUTH I suffer'd for. And I do believe he died in the FAITH, and is at Rest with his GOD; for which, and all others His Mercies, let all that is within me, give him the Praise.*

And now having been made an Experimental Witness of the Dealings of the

LORD with me, and passed through several States and Conditions, by, and through the Assistance of GOD's Power, it pleased the LORD to make me instrumental in His Hand, to speak a WORD in Season, both in Publick and Private to others that were in Exercise ; and in my Obedience to the Motion of the SPIRIT of GOD, I found Peace and Strength, and Encouragement to persevere ; and was made a Witness of the many Wiles and Stratagems of the Enemy, (some Thing thereof I may mention in its Place) both for a Caution, and for the Information of the Young Travellers that may have those Steps to trace through, that it pleased the LORD to lead me in.

But I may first make a little Observation upon the deceitful Spirit that John Berrow, the Priest of the Parish of Watford, was led by, and acted from, to my Grief and Sorrow to behold, in so much that I felt a Concern to seize upon my Spirit, to go and reprove him publickly in his Worship-House, for these false Accusations following : *That the Quakers denied the Scriptures and the Resurrection, and the Man CHRIST JESUS, that died without the Gates of Jerusalem ; and that (as he said) I must only believe in a CHRIST within*
me :

me: And for his going about from House to House, to frighten and discourage, and perswade well-inclined People not to go to a Quaker's Meeting, he finding the People declining from him, for at that Time a good Thing was stirring among them, and many were inquiring after the Kingdom of Heaven.

I say for these Reasons, I found a great Concern upon my Spirit, that the Way of the Lord, or His People, might not be misrepresented, or that the Honest Enquirer might not be turned out of the Way. As this had rested long and weighty upon my Spirit, I often cryed to the Lord to enable me faithfully to discharge that weighty Concern which I saw he required at my Hand, of going to the publick Place of Worship as aforesaid, and for the afore mention'd Service: And indeed as the Concern was weighty, so I was not forward, least I should be found to *Run before I was sent*; therefore I waited patiently to be fully satisfied in the Matter, not only a Day, or a Week, but many Months; and then as my Concern grew heavier upon me, I gave up, begging the Lord to be with me, and to give me a full Mission

D 3

for

for so weighty a Concern. It pleased the Lord to confirm it to me several Ways, yet notwithstanding as poor Gideon of old did, *presum'd to prove and try the Lord once more*: So I said in my Heart to the Lord, *Oh Lord! If Thou wilt be pleased to send thy Servant, Francis Stamper, to this Town to Morrow, then I shall be Confirmed*. I had not as yet opened my Mind, nor told any Body what I saw I had to do, and it pleased the Lord to grant me my Request: The Morrow came, which was the 31st of the 8th Month, 1696; the Meeting Time came, and *Friends* going there, and *Francis* was not yet come, but I had Faith to believe he would. As I was going to Meeting with some *Friends*, I felt a Stop in my Mind, and I said to them, *That I would go back, and tarry for Francis Stamper, whereat the Friends smiled, because he was but lately come Home from a long Journey*. I did go back, and waited but a little Time before he came, and soon after he went into a *Friend's House*. I very well remember his Words, (said he) *Oh! How hath my Spirit been dragged hither*: He added, *I was late last Night at London, but must go to Southgate*.
There

There he had a Country-House, and the Watch was set when he came out of *London*. His Words I took good Notice of, but I said nothing to him of my Concern, till after Meeting; and coming to a *Friend's House*, then it was that I told him what I had to do, and I asked him, *If he would go with me*: To which he answered, after a While weighing the Thing in himself, *I may go with thee*. And in the Afternoon we both went to the Steeple-House, and sate us down in the Alley over-against the Priest, and waited till he had done his Sermon and Prayer: Then I stood up, and said to the Priest, *Neighbour Berrow, I have a Question to ask thee, and I do desire thee, and this Assembly, to hear me*; but he would not, and hastened out, without hearing what I had to say. I seeing him go so hastily away, apply'd my self to the People, and said as followeth: *John Berrow came to me, and said that the Quakers would tell me that I must deny the Man CHRIST JESUS, that died without the Gates of Jerusalem, and that I must believe only in a CHRIST that was within me*: And I bore this Testimony to all present at that Assembly, saying, *We do*

own the Scriptures ; and do say, and believe,
*That there is not another Name given under
 Heaven, whereby any can be saved, but the
 Name of JESUS CHRIST, that died
 without the Gates at Jerusalem, and was
 buried and rose again the Third Day, and
 now sitteth at the Right Hand of G O D,
 glorified with the same Glory He had with
 the Father, before the World began.* Then
 I stopped, and Francis Stamper stood up,
 and would have said something to the
 People, by way of Advice, but one of
 the Church-Wardens (so called) with
 some others, came and compelled us both
 to go out, but I stepped upon one of the
 Seats, and acquainted the People, *That
 we should have a Meeting that Evening at
 our Meeting-House, where all that was so
 inclined, might come ; and blessed be God a
 large and good Meeting it was, where the
 Glorious Presence of the Most High was
 with us, and amongst us.* And good Ser-
 vice for his God, had that faithful Ser-
 vant of the Lord, Francis Stamper, that
 Evening ; as also at many other Times
 here, and hereaways, where a great
 Openness was among the People, and
 many were convinced, blessed be God
 for all His Mercies : And in a fresh and
 lively

lively Remembrance of this faithful Servant of the LORD, *Francis Stampers*, a TESTIMONY springs in my Heart to leave behind me, *viz.*

THAT he was a Man given up in his Day, faithful to his GOD, and run to and fro on the Earth for God's Honour, and the Good of Souls; rising early, and lying down late: Industrious he was in God's Vineyard, or the Harvest Field; for the Lord had made him a Skilful and Laborious Workman; a Valiant Soldier indeed, who feared not the great and potent Adversary: Eminent was that Glory which did attend this *Man of GOD, my Friend and Brother.*

I esteem it a Mercy from the Lord to me, that I had the Privilege of being well acquainted with him in the Service of TRUTH, as well as in Meetings; where I, with many Thousands more, have been refreshed under his Liveing Testimonies, *Which have dropped upon the tender Plants like Dew, or the small Rain that nourishes the tender Blades.* Oh! the Remembrance of it often affects my Heart, and the Lord greatly blessed his Labour of Love;

Love; for by that Power that attended His Ministry, many were turned from Darkness to Light, and from Satan's Power to God.

He was a Man of a tender Spirit, and tho' not advanc'd in Years, yet was as a tender Nursing Father, for many are Witnesses how ready and willing upon all Occasions, he was to go at any Season, to visit those that were in Distress, either in Body or Mind, having a Word suitable to their several States and Conditions: *And often was the Broken Hearted bound up, and the Sin-sick-Soul encouraged.*

Great was the Sorrow and Mournings for the Loss of such an Instrument; my Eyes running down with Tears before the Lord, *But not as without Hopes; for my Hope is firm in the Living G O D, and I have Faith to believe that He will raise up to Himself more Witnesses and Faithful Labourers, in the Room of those he hath been pleased to remove and take to himself out of this evil World, and the Troubles thereof, as he hath done this his Servant, who is gone in Peace, and enter'd into that Rest which G O D hath prepared for the R I G H T E O U S; tho' as to his Age, it may be said he was as in his Prime.*

And

And now in the Close of this short
 TESTIMONY, for my Dear Friend,
 and Fellow-Labourer, in the Work of the
 MINISTRY, I must say, *It is the Lord,*
and He is worthy to do whatever he pleaseth ;
and all that He doth is well done ; for
He gives and He takes away, blessed be His
Name for evermore, saith my Soul,

A. H.

And after the Lord had many Ways
 tried me with Exercises of divers Sorts,
 (some of which I have already mention'd)
 He was now pleased to prove me further
 by Persecution for Tithes, both in the
 Spoil of Goods and Imprisonment, be-
 ing taken away from my Farm and
 Family, which was pretty large, and
 five Fatherless Children, and committed
 to *Alban's* Goal, where I was kept Pri-
 soner about thirteen or fourteen Weeks,
 and had several Scores of Pounds Worth
 taken from me in Corn and Cattel, by
 the Priest and Improprator, because for
 Conscience sake I could not pay to sup-
 port that Worship, which in Conscience
 I believe, and am convinced not to be
 acceptable with God, neither that Anti-
 christian Yoke and Oppression of Tithe
 in

in this his *Gospel Day*; and a Testimony lives in my Heart, to incourage all those that are convinced of GOD'S TRUTH, to be faithful in that Matter, and indeed in all Things that the SPIRIT of JESUS CHRIST shews them to be evil.

I mention my Sufferings not in any boasting way, but for the Encouragement of the Weak; for he that bore up my Head under all my Trials and Exercises, will bear up every sincere Soul, and honest Hearted one, that desires faithfully to do the Will of God: And I bless Him in my very Heart, that He has counted me worthy to suffer for His Name-sake; and of a Truth I can say, *He never suffer'd any Exercise, but He assisted me with Power and Patience to go through it*; and His Word have I witnessed fulfilled, *A Husband He hath been to me, and a Father to my Fatherless Children*: Worthy is He of all Praises, and for ever to be confided in faith my Soul.

And it is my Desire that all *Friends*, both Rich and Poor, may be faithful to GOD in all His Requirings, and in that of Tithes of both Kind, whether it be to *Priest* or *Impropiator*, for they are all one in the Ground, and are demanded and recovered

recovered by the same Law, as may be seen in the *Statute of Henry the Eighth*, whereby they Sue for God and Holy Church, an old **Popish Law** which they Sue by.

And forasmuch as we are now, blessed be God, under the *Gospel Dispensation*, wherein God hath begun to work by His Great Power, against that Spirit and Power of Antichrist, that denies the coming of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, I say, let all such know, both *Givers and Receivers of Tithes*, that God's Determination is, *To turn and overturn*; and in His own due Time, my Faith is, that We will bring down that Antichristian Yoke and Oppression of Tithe, that His innocent People have long suffered under.

And I further believe, had all been faithful that have been convinced of the Evil thereof, and stood firm to their Testimony, by patiently suffering in the *Meek Spirit of the Lamb*, that ravening, devouring Spirit, had been well nigh famished; and the Consumption determined by God Almighty, would have been much more on that Spirit of Persecution by this Time. But Oh! as it was of
Old,

Old, so it is now, *Unfaithfulness makes the Work go on slowly, and the Journey more tedious* : But blessed be God, there is a small Remnant that are fully given up to follow their *True Shepherd* CHRIST JESUS, who is now come in the *Power of His Spirit*, and is revealed in a Remnant, who are thereby enabled to stand as Witnesses for GOD, against all the Hireling Preachers and Time-Servers of all sorts : For His Purpose is, *To set the Son on the Top of all Hills, and Mountains of Shews and Shadows of Religion* ; and by the Assistance of that *Grace that is come by CHRIST JESUS*, many more will be raised to bear Witness to the *Free Ministry of the Lamb of God*, is my firm Belief : And happy, yea, thrice happy, will every Man and Woman be, *That serves God with all their Hearts, and all their outward Substance too, if He calls for it*. Oh ! let no one withhold back, or keep any Thing the Lord requires, but remember, *The Earth is the Lords, and the Fulness thereof ; and the Cattle on a Thousand Hills are His, and He knows what we need*. And if a Time of stripping from these outward Enjoyments is suffered, it is but for a Trial of our Faith. Oh ! that not one that

that may be deeply tried, may faint, or distrust the Lord, *Whose Care, and whose Eye is over the Righteous, and His Ear is open to their Prayers.* And as all come to trust in His Name, minding the present Time with Content, sure I am, the God of Israel will care for them, and appear in a Way, and by a Means they think not of: *So that He will be found a God at Hand, and a present Help in every needful Time.* Therefore ~~let~~ all trust in Him, that fear his Name: *For Life is more than Meat, and the Body than Raiment*; but they that trust in Him, He will give to every such a one, *Life for the Soul, and Bread for the Body*: As He hath done for me in a wonderful Manner, blessed be His Great Goodness for ever.

And here it may not be unfit to mention some Thing of my own Suffering on the Account of Impropriation, for the Information of some that have heard a Report thereof, and may be misinform'd: For a true State of the Matter, I am concern'd to publish this, that thereby none may be deceiv'd, to say, or do that which may bring Trouble upon themselves; for some have taken the
Liberty

Liberty to reflect upon me on one Hand, and some on the other : *The Lord forgive them, for I do.*

And now to proceed : The Impropriation of *Watford* seem'd differing from most, if not all in *England*, in this Particular ; it was a Dowry of the Lady *Essex*, and no Part of it either belongs to the Church or Priest, and through Ignorance Friends scrupled not the Payment of it, not knowing it to be Tithes in the Ground, and that it is upon the same Bottom as other Tithes, and granted and maintain'd by the same Power, and recover'd by the same Laws : I say we ignorantly paid it, till it pleased the Lord to open our Understandings, as I may hereafter relate. It was Customary with the Collectors of this Impropriation, to contract with us that rented Farms, for so much Money to be paid Yearly, and the Contract which my Husband had made and sign'd with the Collectors some Time before his Death, being now expir'd, they came to me to renew it with them, to which I consented : And after it was done, a Fear possess'd me, least that I had done what was not *Right in the Sight of God*, and much Reasonings I had

I had in my Mind about it, and the Concern grew heavier upon my Mind and Spirit, and in great Fear and Trouble I continued many Days and Weeks, earnestly crying to the Lord, *For a clear Sight and Understanding of His Mind and Will, concerning this Matter of Impropration, that I might answer His Requirings upon a good Bottom, and then if Sufferings came, I was fully given up to the Will of God.*

On the other Hand, a Fear was upon my Heart, lest I should do that which the Lord required not at my Hand, and thereby bring Sorrow and Sufferings upon my self and Family, and not find Peace in the End. Great was my Trouble, and many Nights and Days of Sorrow I had, which brought me very weak in Body, near unto the Grave: *For to suffer for Suffering Sake I never desired, and to suffer for Well-doing, the Lord knew my Heart to be wholly given up to His Will: Only, Lord, let me be fully satisfied that I suffer for Well-doing.* This was my earnest Supplication, and in His own Time He was pleased to answer my Prayers, and fully to satisfy me: And I bless God, that gave me Power chearfully to go
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through all my Sufferings upon that Account.

And I would have all know, that I had no other End, or Design, but *God's Honour*, and my own Peace, which I valued more then all outward Enjoyments that this World can afford. This is a sincere Account why I paid, and why I refused, let the Judgements of Men be what it will, *I have Peace with my God, and he shall have the Praise for ever.*

And the Way it pleased the Lord to satisfy me herein, was after this Manner : It open'd in my Mind to get a few Friends together, to have the Matter of Impropriation fully discoursed upon, and there was two sensible able Friends, that discours'd the Matter, the one for paying it, the other against it. *Note*, He that was for paying of it, did not then see it to be the same with Tithe, because it paid no *Priest*, nor any Part of it belong'd to the *Church* (so called ;) but the other Friend so plainly proved it to be the same in the Ground, that I was fully satisfied, and all the rest that was at the Meeting : And the Friend that opposed the other, was himself convinc'd, and since

since refus'd to pay it, and faithfully suffer'd for the same.

The greatest Part of the foregoing being writ some Years ago, and having since seen much of the *Wonders of the Lord in the Deep*, and finding a Concern upon my Mind, to add something as the Lord shall enable, for the Encouragement of my Offspring, for whom I travel in Spirit, and for all the *Babes and Lambs of God, and for the Mourners in Sion, who go heavily on*; I say, for the Sake of these, I am made willing to say a little more of the Kindness of God to the Workmanship of His Hand, and to call to Faithfulness from a deep Sence of the Need there is of it. And this I must say, and that in the Bowedness of my Spirit, that I have no Might of my own, nor Power, nor Ability, but what he shall be pleased to give me: And let nothing be attributed to that *Monster Self*, which too often appears both in Preachers and Writers, which proves like the *Fly in the Ointment of the Apothecary*. And do heartily pray that I may wash my Hands in Innocency, and be preserved clean from that Fault, that God only may have the Praise, who is the *Author of all Good*, and that from

me and every Creature that hath any Breath or Life in them : For wonderful has been his Favours and Mercies to me, above Thousands ; One Half of His Mercies I am not able to set forth.

And what I have seen and felt, this Year, (1708,) is unutterable, being a Year wherein I was *Lead into the Deeps, and beheld much of the Wonders of the Lord, more abundantly then I am able to express* ; neither indeed do I as yet see it so fully required at my Hand, therefore shall only give the Lord his Praise, and admire *His Wonderful Doings*, for I can truly say, *It is marvellous in my Eyes.*

And when very weak in Body, I have been lead by the SPIRIT *into the Low Valley of deep Humility*, wherein I have been overcome with Admiration, beholding *Him that was greater than Solomon* : And surely as there is a coming into a near Communion with CHRIST the LORD, there will be very great Abasement in the Creature, where all Flesh will be brought to Silence in His Presence, that His Voice may be heard, and His Goings seen in the Temple, and with what Majesty he appears there. Oh ! excellent it is, and very Glorious

to behold ; and that my Soul may dwell before Him, is what with great Humility and Tears I beg at His bountiful Hand : And in the Living Faith that crowns with Victory, I have a Hope in me, that as I continue in Well-doing to the End, for His SON's Sake, I shall arrive at the desired Port and Haven of Rest, where all the RIGHTEOUS Sing *Hallelujah* for evermore.

It pleased the Lord to make known His TRUTH to me, about, or in the Year 1680, by that Servant and Handmaid of the Lord, whose Name was *Elizabeth Stamper* ; and without boasting, I can truly say from that Time to this, I have been very careful to obey His Holy Mind and Will, as it hath been made manifest to me, and to the Praise of His Holy Name I speak it. And for the Encouragement of others to Faithfulness, I never since I knew the Lord, went one Day without His Presence, more or less ; so that blessed be God, I have had no *Complaining in my Streets* ; for I have said, and do say, *If there was no future Reward, that the present Comfort of Obedience, is sufficient Encouragement to the Children of Men to fear God, and keep His Commands :*

And those that do, may well live thereby, that is by the Life of the SON of GOD, for He is come indeed that we may have Life, and it is in the Obedience that the Aboundings of it is known. And this great Kindness of God to Mankind, is not by any Merits of ours, but His great Mercy for His SON's sake, through His precious Blood and Merits, we have all these great Benefits which do accrew to both Soul and Body, in our Submission to His Yoke, and in learning of Him who was the Pattern in every Age. *Moses* in the Mount, did his Work according to the Pattern, by the Wisdom of our God, and *David* His Servant, gave Orders unto his Son *Solomon* and the Elders, how to carry on, and build that great House which was in its Time.

But now how much more Glorious is this Dispensation of Light and Grace, which shines from the *Son himself, the express Image of the Father, into our Hearts*, whereby we may now see our Way, and follow the Pattern, and need not to stumble where Thousands have fallen; and some have stuck too fast in Forms and Shews of good Things, which were but
 Shadows,

Shadows, because the Substance, the Pattern by the SPIRIT, *which is sufficient to teach all Things necessary for Eternal Salvation they will not come unto*: Therefore if Men will stumble here, it must be, *Because they love Darknes rather than Light, and to be in Egypt a Slave, under Pharaoh Spiritually, then to come where Light and Good is to be enjoyed.*

Oh! What shall be said to stir up the Sons of Men, that they may be awakened, and no longer *Sleep in the Bed of Ignorance.* Oh! Arise, and come away to the School of CHRIST, who is this Pattern I have been speaking of: *A Measure of His own Pure SPIRIT, he hath given to every one that they may learn thereby, and read inwardly, and to ask so as to receive.* For what is asked by Faith, and in the Measure of His Spirit, He will surely answer in His own Time, which is always the best: For as Times and Seasons are in His Hands, so He, in His Wisdom, knows when it will be best to deliver the Creature out of Trouble, and bring Honour to His own Name, who is worthy of all Praise; for He is an All-seeing GOD, and no Affliction or Trouble can be hid from Him, yet

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He will be sought unto and waited on; and they that know Him, will trust in Him; *For these know Him to be a God at Hand, and a present Help in the needful Time*; as my Soul hath witnessed, Glory to His worthy Name for evermore.

Oh! you Children of Men, into whose Hand these Lines may come, let me prevail upon you to be in earnest for your Souls Welfare, while Health and Strength of Body is afforded you; that you may seek GOD with all your Hearts; that you may come to the very Knowledge of the TRUTH, as it is in JESUS CHRIST; and come to witness an Acquaintance with Him, by waiting on Him frequently; that when the Time of Weakness takes hold on your outward Man, and no worldly Means will avail you, that then you may know the Angel of His Presence to stand by you till Death: *This will be more Joy then Ten Thousand Worlds at that Hour.* Oh! the Strength of Love; surely the Love of GOD is to the Children of Men, that they may prize Time while they have it, to make all Things ready that appertains to Eternal Life: *This is to answer the End of our being in this World, which is to glorify GOD, and to*
work

work out our own Salvation with Fear and Trembling, which must be done (if ever) in the Time afforded unto Men for that End.

Wherefore be wise ye Children of Men, and come and learn of CHRIST, and follow Him ; for He ever gained the Victory, and hath all Power in Heaven and Earth committed to Him ; and therefore resolve by the Help of His Grace, to follow on wherever he will lead you : For assuredly, He will give you Power to tread on Scorpions, and to keep under every foul Spirit. And in your Obedience, you will be watchful in the LIGHT, by which you may see every Appearance of Evil, and then to resist it, by the Assistance of the SPIRIT, and not to let it in, or give it any Entertainment ; remembering, That you are Soldiers under the Banner of the unconquered Captain, CHRIST JESUS, who always stood by His in every Age : So that in Faithfulness they always went out of the Field, (this World I mean) tho' it hath been a Bloody Field where the Saints and Martyrs have sealed their Testimonies with their Blood, for our GOD and the LAMB, who was their Captain, and that brought them off with Victory, bearing the Marks of the Followers

lowers of J E S U S. Oh! who would not be a Follower of the L O R D, who can help both outwardly and inwardly, all those that stand for Him, and the Honour of His Name; whose Name is a Tower of Safety, and hath stood in its own Power, against all the *Battering-Rams*, and *He-Goats*, that the *Devil* hath rais'd in every Age as Instruments, to push at the Saints and Children of God up and down, so as they have had but little Ease in the World; for either *Ishmael*, or *Cain*, or the *Egyptian Nature*, or the *Uncircumcised Philistian*, or *Herod*, who sought the Life when but young, hath been busy: So that in every Dispensation, the *Bad* have, and do still trouble the *GOOD*; *Yea, the Lion is for tearing of the Lamb, and the Wolf is a hunting for his Evening Prey*: But Glory to G O D, the True Shepherd is known, and his Power felt, in which the Righteous have trusted, and do to this Day: And the Living can now say, *It is the same as it was in the Beginning*; As a Canopy over the Righteous; A safe hiding Place in Time of Trouble, when Instruments of Cruelty are let loose, and greedy to do Mischief: Like Whelps, led on by
that

that greedy Dog the *Devil*, who is for tearing and pulling down all that he may, or can, into his Kennel, or Den of Darkness, where all that do his Work must go, if there is not a Repenting in Time, *For the Wages of Sin is Death.*

And it will stand Good for ever against Evil Doers of all sorts, that love foolish Vanities and Lust, *which warreth against the Soul*; and all such as Swear, or Lye, or Cheat, or commit Adultery, or lead a Life in any other Evil, let me prevail with them *To repent, and forsake the Evil of their Ways, and the Sins that so easily besets*; which are the Sins they are most addicted to, and do the Devil's Drudgery no longer; for he is an ill Master, and his Wages that he gives, are such as he has for his own Doings; that is, Death and Damnation must be his Servant's Punishment, *From the Hand of the Righteous and Just Judge of Heaven and Earth, who will do justly by every Creature, and according to every Man's Doings, will his Reward be.* Therefore all that are at a distance from God, by Reason of Evil, put it far away by true and timely Repentance, that you may know what it is to be *Washed with the Water of Regeneration,*

tion, and cleansed from Sin, and the Spots thereof, by the Blood of the Lamb: That so you may come to witness the Renewings of His Favours, which will be as the Balm of Gilead, that will heal the Wound to the Bottom, and be made strong thereby, and fit for the Service of CHRIST our LORD, who is the best Master that ever Man or Woman serv'd, who gives Eternal Life: But all that come to Him, must believe that He is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him, and therefore cannot serve Two Masters; For they must renounce the Devil their old one, and all his Works, with the Pumps and Vanities of this World, and like a good Soldier, follow the Captain in all Perseverance, through Good Reports and Bad Reports, and keep to the Standard, the SPIRIT of TRUTH; which if you do, you may pray to the Giver for what you stand in need of, let it be Bread for Soul or Body; or Faith, or Hope, or Courage, or the Armour of Light, or whatever else your Wants may be: Take Courage and ask, and you shall receive double Comfort for all you have, or shall undergo, for CHRIST'S SAKE and the GOSPEL; and

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the Life which you have lost, which you had in Vanity and Evil, you, in the Room of it, shall find a Life a hundred fold exceeding it, in Peace and inward Joy by the Holy Spirit, in your Submission to the Will of God, who hath called you with a high Calling, that you should hear His Son, the Pattern, and obey Him in all Things unto the End ; then a good Soldier, like that blessed Apostle *Paul*, *Who fought the good Fight, and kept the Faith*, and went out of this bloody Field bravely. Oh faithful Soldiers ! Come on, and be not fearful nor faint Hearted, because a Woe attends such, but be Valiant and Zealous for TRUTH on Earth, according to that Knowledge GOD shall give you : And here you will then be found improving your Talents, whether it be Five, Two, or One, however small, it being in the Bank, which is your Hearts, and they being tinctur'd and season'd with the *Grace of GOD*, your Delight will be in the Treasury, and you will witness an Increase in that which will do you good in the End of your Warfare, let it be long or short.

In Faithfulness all will end well, God is the same as ever He was, and His Care
over

over His Children and People, the same as ever it was in any Age : I am a Witness of it, a poor Worm, or unprofitable Servant ; for if I have obeyed His Command, it is but what was, and is my reasonable Duty : And the Scriptures are verified, where it is said, *His Eye is over the Righteous, and His Blessed Ear is open to their Cry* : For He is the God and Father of Mercies, and delights to meet with his own to do them good ; because he takes no Pleasure in afflicting the Children of Men, further then to bring them into Subjection to His Son ; and they thereby come to know the Sonship State, and not that of a Bastard : That thereby all may come to learn Submission to His Heavenly Will ; whose Will is, *That all Men every where repent, and come to the Knowledge of the TRUTH, and be saved with an everlasting Salvation ; saved from Sin, and the Wrath due to the same.* This is Freedom indeed, to be made free by the LORD of all Power, who said to the Jews, *If the Son make you free, then are you free indeed.* Oh ! that Men would long for this Freedom, and believe in the Sufficiency of that Grace that is come by *Jesus Christ*, and
appears

appears in the Heart to convince Men of Sin in its first Budding, that by the Strength of this Grace, it may be crush'd as the Cockatrice Egg, and not conceiv'd, or receiv'd in the Mind or Heart, and so brought forth. No, no; but cast out by the Assistance of the SPIRIT, which is all one with the Grace of G O D, that thou may witness the Effects of the Grace and Coming of J E S U S, which is indeed, *To save People from their Sins, that they that will be His, and believe that He has all Power committed to Him in Heaven and Earth, and had the Victory in full over the World, the Flesh and the Devil; and therefore can, and doth give Power to all that thus believes in His Name: For certain stronger is He that is in us, to wit CHRIST by His Spirit, then he that is in the World; and more powerful is JESUS to save, then the Devil to compel Men to Sin; for he can but tempt, and it was by yielding to his Temptation, that brought the Misery upon our first Parents; and yielding to him, is the Cause of Misery still.*

And I do observe, the Second Adam, the Lord from Heaven, the Restorer of Mankind, did not say, *That we should not be tempted, or have no Onset in the Field,*
where

*where this Usurper goeth, and hath his Food,
 which is in the Earth, and the Dust thereof.*
 And he that was so bold, as to approach
 so near, as to tempt the L O R D of Glory,
 no doubt but he will assault his Follow-
 ers: And the Lord who well knew what
 we should meet with, advis'd and coun-
 sell'd, *To watch and pray, that we enter
 not into Temptation;* which was as much
 as if he had said, *If any Thing that is Evil
 trouble you, touch not with it; but pray to
 me, and I will assist you:* So that it will
 be the Lord that worketh this Delive-
 rance; God must have the Praise, who
 is worthy; for his own Works praise
 him, because they are wonderfully made
 manifest in this Age of the World, after
 so long and dark Night of Apostacy,
 blessed be G O D, the Great Being, who
 is the Spirit of Light and of Purity, and
 hath now eminently broken forth by
*His Son, to enlighten the Children of Men
 in the right Place, that is, In the Heart,
 and inward Parts, by His Spirit, and Great
 Power, that hath been stronger then the Power
 of Darknes;* To the pulling down and
 spoiling of the Works of the old Adver-
 sary, the Usurper, yea, and to bind him
 and cast him out, and so fit the Creature,
 and

and make clean the inside by his polishing P O W E R, for His Heavenly Building, as a Stone, or a Pillar, in this His latter House, which God is building of Living Stones, tho' disallowed of by the *Worldly Wise of this Day*, but approved of G O D ; who is the Chief Corner Stone of this Building, and L O R D of All, and over All ; who will fit every Thing so in Order, that it will be put together compleatly, without the Sound, or Help of Carnal Tools, or Instruments of Man's devising, or Contrivance.

And as the *Workman is all Wise, and His Works all Good*, so it will tend to every one's Good, that comes to be rightly concerned in Mind and Spirit, as some of old were, as we may read in the *Holy Scriptures*, who said, *What shall we do, that we may work the Works of G O D ?* And the Answer was by one that well knew, *This is the Work of God, that ye believe in Him whom God hath sent.* Oh ! it is a Matter of Sorrow, to think that Men and Women should be so backward in their *Belief on the Son of G O D, in His Spiritual Appearance in the Heart* ; but blessed be God, a Remnant have believed, and thereby can Cry *Abba Father,*
F because

because he hath done that in them, and for them, by the Operation of his mighty Power, that no other could do; and thereby we know, *That the Son of God is come, and has given us an Understanding, that we may know Him that is True, even CHRIST in us, the Hope of Glory: Which is as an Anchor sure and stedfast, that never failed, when the Wind blew, or the Rain descended, and Floods of Afflictions swelled high.* No, no, it never failed, for the Foundation is a tryed one, an immoveable Rock in every Age; all that have built on it, and so continued, have stood fast and sure, when those that have built upon the Sand, have suffered great Loss, when Time here is at an End, and their Foundation comes to be tryed, and found to be but Sandy. Oh! it will be dreadful, *To go hence out of Time, into Eternity,* and that in the Displeasure of an angry, yet Long-suffering, Just G O D, who will be Just in all His Doings, and render to the *Foolish Virgins, and Sandy Builders, and Slothful Servants,* a Reward according to their Doings, and the Sentence pronounced as it is in the Scripture, *Depart from me, ye Workers of Iniquity, I know you not.* Oh! the Sense of it makes my Heart to melt within me,

to think how dismal a State it is, to be banished from the Presence of a Glorious God, who long strives with Men by His *Good Spirit*, to reform them, that thereby they might be as the *Wise Builders*. But Oh to be lamented! Too too many have refused the Offers of His Love, and have chosen their own Ways, and hated to be reformed; *Therefore great will be the Condemnation of such, and dreadful will the Worm gnaw, when Men consider how Time is over, and all Means of Grace is quite gone. Then shall such see how they have missed the Favour of a Good G O D, by choosing their own Ways, and doing their own Work: Oh! Lost Time, the Field, and the Pearl also.* Therefore better will it be to mind the Work of G O D, *That by Faith in the S O N, you may witness Him to work all your Works in you, and for you, of His own good Pleasure.* There is nothing for Man to boast, or glory in, who is to be pliable as the Clay in the Hand of the Potter, till made a Vessel to his Praise; *For certainly God hath no Delight in the Death of him that dieth: No, no, But rather that Men should obey His Commands and live.* Or else surely, he would not set Life and Death, Good

and Evil before Men, and say, *Choose ye whether.* Which seems very plain, that there is a Choice for Mankind, and an Offer of Salvation while in this World : So that Men and Women may choose Life, by believing in CHRIST, or refuse it, by Unbelief ; which leads from GOD, and the LORD JESUS, into Death and Darkness, where the Carnality comes up, and overspreads the Mind, and darkens the Understandings.

But blessed be the good GOD, that hath brought a Remnant to the Knowledge of *His Light*, and to the Obedience also ; such are made Living Witnesses of the *Sufficiency of His Grace*, with the Apostle of old, who had it recommended to him when in great Buffetings and Temptations, and found it effectual ; tho' we find the Blessed Apostle had been in a State, whereof he crys out : *Oh ! Wretched Man that I am, who shall deliver me from this Body of Death ? And again, I am Carnal, sold under Sin.* Oh ! this was a mournful State with *Paul* for a Season, when Sorrow possessed his Heart and Reins, and in the Sense of it, he cryed to God, *That was able to help him*, and in due Time, he came to witness the

Sufficiency

Sufficiency of His Grace, to bring him out of that State, and to know a better Condition, and to say, *There is therefore now no Condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the Flesh, but after the Spirit; for the Law of the Spirit of Life, in Christ Jesus, hath made me free from the Law of Sin and Death.* Oh! Blessed Freedom came to Believers in that early Day, by JESUS CHRIST; and blessed be G O D, it is the same in this very Day as it was then; for this *Grace which is come by Jesus Christ*, doth not only enlighten Men and Women, to let them see their foul Inside, and Sinful Condition, but gives Power to the Soul to help it out of Thralldom; and as there is a Faithfulness in the Creature, the *Sufficiency of the Grace is still witnessed*, to lead from one Degree of Strength to another: So that here they have to thank God in their Measure, as the Apostle had, and can say, *In God there is no Variableness, nor Shadow of Turnings, for He is the same as ever, to them who believe, and follow Christ Jesus; who was Paul's and all the Apostles Leader, and is still the True Believers Guide.* And every faithful Follower of J E S U S hath this to say, and that not boast-
ingly,

ingly, *That Revelation is not ceased, nor the Gospel hid; but to them that are lost by Unbelief, and that will not, or do not believe in the Light of Christ, and in the Sufficiency of it, such must lye down in Sorrow, where all Unbelievers do. And all such that will have it, That there is no State of Redemption to be witnessed here on this Side of the Grave, from Sin; I say, such have great Reason to cry out, and say, They are full of putrified Sores, and that they have no Soundness in them.* These are sad Complaints indeed, and how can it be otherwise, while they plead for the Devil's Kingdom, which is Sin and Darknes, and Confusion: Oh! therefore all my Countrymen and Women, Neighbours and Relations, let me prevail with you, *Be reconciled to GOD, by believeing in His SON, whom He hath appointed Heir of all Things, and by, and through whom, you may find Acceptance, who is the Advocate indeed; as a Remnant are Living Witnesses, blessed be God, those who have believed in His Name, That is the Power of His inward Appearance, in which there is Victory obtained over the World, the Flesh and the Devil.*

Oh! Happy Souls, that can thus believe in His Name; these shall be baptized

zed with CHRIST's own *Baptism*, which is, *With the Holy Ghost and with Fire*; that is, *His Pure Spirit entring into their Hearts, to make clean Work there*: And His Word, which may be said, *To be as a Fire against every Appearance of Evil, to burn it up, and destroy it in its first Appearance.*

Oh! That the Children of Men would be Wise, and fear God, and call upon His Name, while the Door of Mercy is open, that their Souls may live, and not dye, is that which I heartily pray for, because I have been one that have tasted of the *Good Word of G O D*, and have known some Thing of the *Powers of the World to come*: And having tasted both of His Mercy and Judgment, I can do no less then call, invite, and intreat all, to be faithful to the L O R D, and all His Requirings, that in the winding up of all, G O D may have His Praise, who is *Everlastingly worthy*; and our poor Souls the *Joy and Comfort*, that none else can give, or take away.

T H E E N D.

